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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 TEL AVIV 002416

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD
NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA;
DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DRL FOR A/S CRANER;
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN;
USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [CASC](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [GZ](#)

SUBJECT: THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND APRIL 28, 2004 --
(1300 HOURS LOCAL) -- FOUR SOLDIERS WOUNDED APRIL 28 AS IDF
THWARTS SUICIDE ATTACK IN GAZA

THIS IS A JOINT MESSAGE FROM EMBASSY TEL AVIV AND CONGEN
JERUSALEM.

SUMMARY

[11.](#) (SBU) Summary: Israeli media reported that four Israelis were injured, one seriously, in an attempted suicide car bombing April 28 when a jeep exploded under IDF gunfire as it was speeding towards the settlement of Kfar Darom. Three Palestinians were killed April 26 in the Mughazi camp in an argument that apparently broke out when two of the men tried to seize an explosive belt from the third at gunpoint. Hamas issued a statement declaring that the two men who attempted to seize the belt were Israeli collaborators who tried to detain the third, who was a Hamas militant planning to use the belt in a suicide attack. In the West Bank, the IDF killed two Palestinians alleged to be members of Hamas in Tulkarem. The operation, in which another Palestinian was wounded, led to subsequent clashes in Tulkarem, injuring an additional six Palestinians. Israel border police detained Al-Quds University President Sari Nussaybah for five hours of questioning on April 28.

End Summary.

West Bank

[12.](#) (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Death/Injury: The IDF killed two Palestinians April 27 in Tulkarm. The two were reported to be members of Hamas. Another Palestinian was wounded in the operation and subsequently arrested. Clashes in Tulkarm following this incident left another six Palestinians injured.

-- Injury: nil

-- Shooting: Palestinian gunmen shot at IDF jeeps in the Tulkarm and Janin areas on April 27, but no one was injured.

[13.](#) (SBU) ARRESTS:

-- The IDF arrested 11 Palestinians throughout the West Bank during the night between April 27 and 28.

-- Israeli police arrested a teenage Palestinian girl in Jerusalem who was carrying a large knife. Press reports indicated she was suspected of planning to stab policemen.

-- Israeli border police detained Al-Quds University President Sari Nussaybah for five hours of questioning on April 28. Nussaybah's offense, according to the Israeli police spokesman, was allowing West Bank Palestinians to work at the AQU campus in the Beit Hanina section of Jerusalem without permits to enter Israel. Nussaybah was released without any charges filed.

[14.](#) (SBU) CURFEWS/CLOSURES:

-- Bayt Sahour was still under curfew April 27, after a weekend shooting attack against nearby Har Homa settlement.

Gaza

[15.](#) (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Three Palestinians were killed April 26 in the Mughazi camp when an argument apparently broke out between three men. Two of the men reportedly tried to seize an

explosive belt from the third at gunpoint. Hamas issued a statement declaring that the two men who attempted to seize the belt were Israeli collaborators who tried to detain the third, who was a Hamas militant planning to use the belt in a suicide attack.

-- Death/Injuries: Israeli media reported that four IDF soldiers were injured, one seriously, in an attempted suicide car bombing April 28 when a jeep exploded under IDF gunfire as it was speeding towards the settlement of Kfar Darom. The Palestinian driver of the jeep was killed in the blast (see "Explosions").

-- Death/Injury: UNRWA and Israeli media reported that a 14-year-old Palestinian boy was shot and killed April 26 when he and a group of teenagers gathered near the fence of the Nissanit settlement to watch IDF armored vehicles operating in the area of Bayt Lahiyah. According to press reports, an IDF sniper shot the boy using live ammunition. Several hours later, a larger group gathered and threw stones at the IDF vehicles. One Palestinian was injured when the IDF responded with live ammunition, rubber-coated bullets and tear gas.

-- UNRWA reported that two Palestinians, ages 14 and 15, were shot and injured April 27 near Bayt Lahiyah when IDF soldiers responded to stone-throwing with tear gas, rubber-coated bullets, and live fire ammunition.

-- Injuries: UNRWA reported that a 17-year-old Palestinian woman was shot and seriously injured April 26 when IDF soldiers opened fire on her as she approached the border of the Slaw settlement. Palestinian sources said that the woman was mentally handicapped; IDF officials said that the soldiers opened fire on her when she ran towards the settlement, thinking that she meant to attack them.

-- Mortars/Rockets/Hand Grenades: The IDF reported a total of 10 mortar shells fired at IDF outposts and Israeli settlements April 26-28. No injuries were reported.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported four shooting attacks April 26-28.

-- Explosions: UNRWA and Israeli media reported that a Palestinian attempting to drive an explosive-laden jeep into Kfar Darom settlement was sighted by IDF soldiers who opened fire on him. The jeep, apparently disguised as an IDF vehicle, exploded before reaching the settlement, killing the driver and wounding four IDF soldiers.

-- Explosions: UNRWA reported that unknown Palestinians blew up two coffee shops in Burayj camp in the early morning hours of April 27. PA police are investigating; no injuries were reported.

-- Explosions: UNRWA reported that Palestinians exploded an IED April 26 near an IDF armored vehicle patrolling near Bayt Hanoun. No injuries were reported. The al-Aqsa Brigades claimed responsibility for the attack.

-- Explosions: UNRWA reported that Palestinians exploded an IED April 26 near an IDF armored vehicle patrolling the border fence with Egypt. No injuries were reported. The al-Aqsa Brigades claimed responsibility for the attack.

16. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS:

-- UNRWA reported that an IDF bulldozer and two tanks uprooted 10 dunams of olive trees near Khan Yunis April 26.

17. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS/CHECKPOINTS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open for Palestinians.

-- Erez Crossing and the Erez Industrial Zone both remained closed April 27-28, despite earlier GOI statements that they would re-open after Independence Day April 27.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed April 27-28 for Palestinian laborers and for the import of construction materials.

-- Karni Terminal was open April 27-28 for the import and export of goods into the Gaza Strip.

-- Rafah Terminal was open April 27-28 for Palestinian travelers under age 16 and over age 35.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed April 27-28. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi.

18. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- Israeli media reported that approximately 60-70,000 Israelis gathered in the Gush Katif settlement bloc April 27 to mark Israeli independence day and to show support for the settlers there.

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KURTZER